

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device ~~for fastening~~ comprising:
a distribution component to be maintained on a vessel neck, ~~said fastening device~~
~~comprising:~~ having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;
a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the
internal wall to contact the external wall of the neck, ~~and, the ring having a through opening for~~
the operating rod; and
a lining collar surrounding the skirt of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an
internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axially
vertical axis, the ring and the collar being definitively secured on the neck,
characterized in that the external wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs
extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt, said external ribs coming in fitting
contact against the internal wall of the collar.
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~fastening~~ device according to claim 1, wherein the
internal wall of the skirt is radially distorted inwards at the external ribs.
3. (Currently Amended) The ~~fastening~~ device according to claim 2, wherein, before
the retainer ring is fitted into the lining collar, the internal wall of the skirt is cylindrical and the
ribs together define a maximum diameter greater than the inside diameter of the lining collar.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~fastening~~ device according to claim 1, wherein the internal wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal internal ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~fastening~~ device according to claim 4, wherein the internal ribs are angularly offset from the external ribs so that one internal rib is located between two external ribs and vice versa.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~fastening~~ device according to claim 5, wherein the external wall of the skirt, between the external ribs, is at a distance from the internal wall of the lining collar so as to create an intermediate clearance.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~fastening~~ device according to claim 1, wherein the external ribs are evenly distributed around the skirt.

8. (Withdrawn) A method of assembling a device for fastening a distribution component on a vessel neck, said fastening device comprising:

a retainer ring comprising a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall to contact the neck, the external wall of the skirt being formed with longitudinal external ribs extending from the top of the skirt; and

a lining collar defining an internal wall and an external wall,

the method comprising the step of force-fitting the ring into the collar, with the external ribs coming in abutting contact against the internal wall of the collar so as to displace the ribs radially inwards and thereby distorting the internal wall of the skirt radially inwards.

9. (Withdrawn) The assembly method according to claim 8, wherein the step of force-fitting the ring into the collar is performed before the fastening device is installed on a vessel neck.

10. (Currently Amended) A device comprising: for fastening
a distribution component to be mounted on a vessel neck, ~~said fastening device~~
~~comprising: having an external wall, the component having an operating rod;~~
a retainer ring comprising a sleeve and a skirt defining an internal wall and an external wall, with the internal wall of the skirt to contact the external wall of the neck, ~~and, the ring~~
having a through opening for the operating rod; and
a lining collar surrounding the skirt and the sleeve of the retainer ring, the lining collar defining an internal wall and a visible external wall, the ring and the collar extending about an axial vertical axis, the ring and the collar being definitively secured on the neck,
characterized in that the external wall of the skirt and the sleeve is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending axially vertically over the height of the skirt and the sleeve, said external ribs coming in fitting contact against the internal wall of the collar.

Serial No. 10/057,406 - - - - 8

11. (Canceled)
12. (New) The device according to claim 1, wherein the distribution component is a pump.
13. (New) The device according to claim 1, wherein the distribution component is a valve.